Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

MacCulloch, R.D. and A. Lathrop. 2006. *Stefania ayangannae.*

Stefania ayangannae MacCulloch and Lathrop
Ayanganna Stefania; Rana Stefania de Ayanganna

Stefania ayangannae MacCulloch and Lathrop 2002: 329. Type-locality "...northeast plateau of Mount Ayanganna, Guyana (05° 24' N, 059° 57' W) elevation 1490 m." Holotype, Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) 39501, adult male, collected by R. MacCulloch, 26 October 2000 (examined by authors).

• **CONTENT**. No subspecies are known.

• **DEFINITION**. Adult females attain an SVL up to 50 mm, males to 40 mm. Head length is equal to or slightly greater than width. Frontoparietal ridges are visible, but reduced. The canthus rostralis is distinct, angular, and concave. Tympanum diameter is greater than half the diameter of the eye, separated from it by a distance equal to the tympanum diameter. Vomerine processes each bear 5 teeth. Dorsal skin is shagreened, ventral skin granular. The first finger is longer than the second by approximately the length of the disc on the first finger. All digits have well-developed discs; toes are webbed basally. The largest finger disc is typically ¾ of the tympanum diameter, although in some large individuals that disc can cover the entire tympanum (Fig. 1).

Dorsal color is yellowish-brown or yellowish-red with diagonal paravertebral dark brown marks, often joined to form chevrons. A dark brown patch is present on the head, bordered anteriorly by a cream interorbital bar. Canthal, supratympanic and lip bars are dark brown, with a cream vertical line on the tip of the snout. Flanks have five narrow diagonal dark brown bars. The venter is pale yellow with dark brown mottling on the throat. Limbs are yellowish-brown with dark brown crossbands dorsally, pale ventrally with increasing dark brown stippling distally. Palms and soles are darker brown, and the distal phalanges of the toes are red. In some individuals the markings are much less prominent (Fig. 3).

In juveniles the frontoparietal ridges are not visible. Dorsal background color is yellow by night and olive by day, with the chevrons, lateral bars and head patch, if present, not as prominent as in adults (Fig. 4).

Females carrying four eggs and four, five, six or eight neonates have been reported. Juveniles become independent at about 16 mm SVL.

• **DIAGNOSIS**. *Stefania ayangannae* can be distinguished from *S. evansi* and *S. scalae* by its reduced toe webbing (¾ webbed in *S. evansi* and *S. scalae*), from *S. percristata* by the absence of large frontoparietal crests (present in *S. percristata*), from *S. roraimae* by its low frontoparietal ridges and shagreened dorsal skin (no ridges, smooth skin in *S. roraimae*), from *S. woodleyi* by its curved canthus rostralis (straight in *S. woodleyi*), color pattern and elevational distribution, and from *S. ackawaio* by color pattern and by its relatively long second finger, which reaches the first finger's disc when adpressed (does not contact the terminal phalange of the first finger in *S. ackawaio*). *S. ayangannae* differs from all other members of the narrow-headed *S. evansi* group (*S. marahuaquensis, S. riae*, and *S. tamacuarina*) by the presence of distinct, albeit reduced, frontoparietal crests. All other species of *Stefania* are in the *S. goini* group, and can be distinguished from *S. ayangannae* by head proportions (wider than long in the *S. goini* group).



Figure 1. *Stefania ayangannae*, ROM 39640, female with juveniles from Mt. Ayanganna, Guyana (photograph by A. Lathrop).



Figure 2. *Stefania ayangannae*, ROM 39511, female carrying eggs from Mt. Ayanganna, Guyana (photograph by A. Lathrop).

• **DESCRIPTIONS**. MacCulloch and Lathrop (2002)

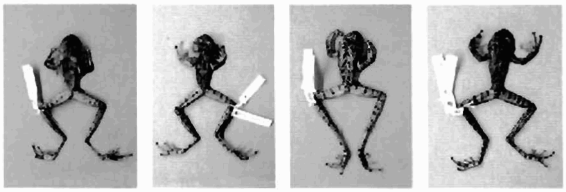


Figure 3. Pattern variation in adult *Stefania ayangannae*. Specimens are 38–44 mm SVL (photograph by A. Lathrop).

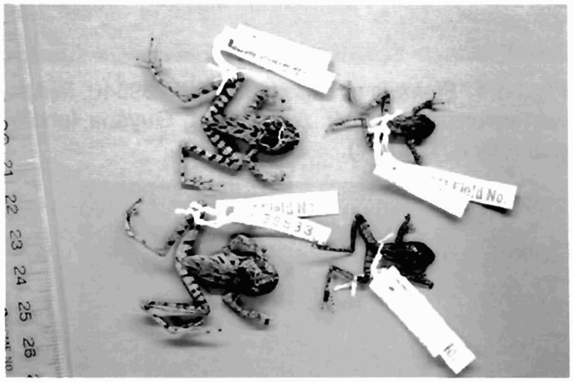
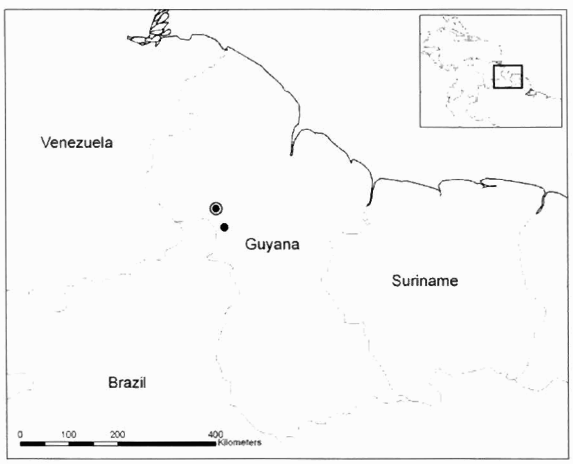


Figure 4. Juveniles of *Stefania ayangannae*, from Mt. Ayanganna, Guyana. Specimens are 17–27 mm SVL (photograph by A. Lathrop).

provided descriptions of adults, neonates and independent juveniles, including color variation, and an additional description is in MacCulloch et al (2006). The mating call is unknown.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS**. Color photographs of adults and juveniles, as well as black-and-white photos of the palm and sole, are in MacCulloch and Lathrop (2002) and MacCulloch et al (2006).



Map. Distribution of *Stefania ayangannae*. The circle indicates the type-locality. The solid dot indicates the other known locality. Map courtesy of Blake Matejowski.

• **DISTRIBUTION**. *Stefania ayangannae* is known only from Mounts Ayanganna and Wokomung, Pakaraima Mountains, Guyana, at elevations of 1234–1700 m. The Pakaraima region has not been well-studied, so the species may occur elsewhere in suitable high-elevation habitat.

• **FOSSIL RECORD**. None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE**. MacCulloch and Lathrop (2002) and MacCulloch et al (2006) provide information on reproduction and habitat, and a table of diagnostic characters useful for species identification.

• **REMARKS**. *Stefania* was placed in the new family Cryptobatrachidae by Frost et al. (2006). Rivero (1970) divided the genus *Stefania* into two species groups; *Stefania ayangannae* is in the *S. evansi* group by virtue of its head proportions (head length equal to or greater than width in the *S. evansi* group). The Spanish vernacular name is in accordance with names proposed by Barrio-Amorós (1998), and the English vernacular name follows this example.

• **ETYMOLOGY**. The specific epithet, in the feminine genetive, refers to Mount Ayanganna, the type-locality.

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